



HiTAC May 2025

Kia ora, welcome to the latest issue of the HiTAC.

Feedback and content can be emailed to hitac.tac@outlook.com

[View this email in your browser](#)



From the President's desk

President's Report April 2025

Time stops for no one and nor does the rain currently it seems! Fingers crossed these weather extremes that we have experienced this year will bring a heavy dumping of snow this season!

As the new committee settles into the different allocated roles, the usual annual administrative things tick over. You will have noticed that your membership invoice was issued on the 1st April, and a week or so later for those of you who have lockers, this invoice was sent out separately. Unfortunately, the system won't let us add the locker to the membership renewal invoice. So please check you have paid your locker fees if you wish to retain it.

Charlie & I have finished the Open Climb After Action Review. Our reflection only brings into play some minors adjustment for next year. The club has this system pretty much down pat from years of experience & you club members regularly making yourselves available certainly helps. So, it's now time for me to apply for next year's concession!

Time to unwind and have some fun at the lodge with the 80's party on the 3rd May – bring your dancing shoes, relax, sing your heart out (or perhaps not – we'll let you know on that), we may even have a trot somewhere on the Sunday morning!

See you at the next club night!

Sheryl Hamilton

Madam President

president.tac@outlook.com

027 243 1718

New Members

A big Welcome to the following new members:

Alex Lovell, Jon Geehan, Alison Gwerder, Ari Micheal Geehan and Ren Joseph Geehan

Notices

New Private TAC Members only Facebook group!

We have created a closed group for members only where we can connect with others, ask questions, plot and plan adventures, provide up to date information, and promote events.

We feel this will be a great tool to get more people out and about enjoying our mighty maunga. Text your mates or more experienced members and invite them out for the day - go have some fun together! Makes those casual adventures super easy for planning!

So if you want to know who's going out for a trot check the page, drop in a comment & perhaps join them.

Help build our TAC community by clicking the link

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BhHF7NiU6/>

Love you to share some photos and stories that inspire us or outright just make us laugh!

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 0278655916

From your new Trips Co-Ordinator

Hi folks,

I'm fairly new to the club and mountaineering and brand new to the role of Trips Co-ordinator. I'm really keen to develop my skills alongside my son Lucas.

I see there's been some great trips held over the years so am looking forward to helping Leaders co-ordinate future ones.

If you are keen to lead or have some ideas for me to follow up, please get in touch by phone, text, look me up on messenger or email.

Looking forward to hearing from you all

Rachel Alford

0278655916

Committee4@outlook.com



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

22 April 2025

Temporary closure for North Taranaki Visitor Centre

DOC's North Taranaki Visitor Centre will temporarily close in late April while demolition on the aging visitor centre building begins.

DOC's Acting Taranaki Operations Manager Phil Melgren says the visitor centre building was identified as needing replacement several years ago, due to its age and condition. Through an agreement between DOC and Te Atiawa, the iwi will lead on demolition of the existing building and construction of the new facility.

Phil says the current visitor centre will close at 3.30pm on 27 April 2025 - at the end of the current school holidays.

"The visitor centre will be closed for a minimum of three days during the transition period. A DOC staff member will be on site to provide information to visitors."

The temporary visitor centre building is on site and is being readied to be opened on 2 May. It is in the upper carpark along with new visitor toilets. The temporary visitor centre and toilets have been designed with ramps to be fully accessible.

Phil says the temporary visitor is expected to operate for two years while the new facility is constructed. It will have the same opening hours - 8.30am to 3.30pm seven days a week - with the same services for information, hut tickets and some retail offering, particularly gear to help visitors keep safe and warm on the maunga

Demolition of the old visitor centre will start in the middle of May. The first thing visitors will see is some vegetation clearing and fencing going in place.

Instruction Courses

2025 Snowcraft Instruction



Hi Climbers!

The temperatures are dropping and it's time to start thinking about our snowcraft courses.

Snowcraft 1

If you wish to be considered, can you please contact captain.tac@outlook.com, with the following information:

- Name, address, age [min age is 16 yrs.].
- Question 1: Where are you looking to take your climbing over the next 5-10 years
- Question 2 What is your current snow/ice experience:

- Question 3: What is your level of fitness
- Preferred course date:

Dates:

1st SC1

Starting Fri 25 July 7pm - Sun 27, with a pre-field get together Mon 21 July

No Backup Weekend exist for this

2nd SC1

Starting Sat 23 Aug 7am to Sun 24, with a pre-field get together Mon 18 Aug

Backup weekend Fri 22 - Sun 24 Aug

Note: .

- The pre-field evening (in New Plymouth) is compulsory

Snowcraft 2

For those considering to register interest for the Snowcraft 2, it is a pre-requisite that you have been undertaking sufficient climbing to a point where your alpine climbing progression is now requiring the use of ropes, protection, anchors to ascend the routes you are wishing to climb. It is up to the discretion of the course leaders and trainers to accept the application.

Please do not be offended if it is declined, this is for climbers to take a significant step with their skills and it is pertinent that the attendees are confident with their abilities. Please contact captain.tac@outlook.com with your request to join the course detailing your climbing progress and accomplishments to date and aspirations.

Dates: Fri 1 August 7pm - Sun 3 Aug with a pre-field (rock gym) session Mon 28th July

Your Club Captain

Glen Hodges

captain.tac@outlook.com

Hillary Outdoors Winter Skills Courses

Kia ora,

I hope you are well and looking forward to an adventurous winter!

I'm reaching out today as one of our team members had noted that the Taranaki Alpine Club may have some individual looking to participate in one of our Winter Skills Courses.

Great news, we've officially released our Winter Skills Course dates, and they are now live on our website!

Please find links below to our different Winter Skills Course pages. Feel free to share these with anyone who is interested, our website explains ab it about the courses and that is also where people can go to enrol if they are interested:

- [Alpine Skills Course](#)
- [Avalanche Skills Course 1 \(ASC1\)](#)
- [Avalanche Skills Course 2 \(ASC2\)](#)

Places are limited, we work by first in, first served basis, and will open a waitlist once spaces are full.

If you have any questions at all, feel free to get in touch. Otherwise, we hope to see some of our club members this winter! ❄️

Ngā mihi | Kind regards,

Shannon Nizniak | Programme Coordinator



Bookings@hillaryoutdoors.co.nz

Momentum Hub, Vector Wero Whitewater Park, 770 Great South Road, Wiri, Auckland 2104

8am – 4:30pm, Mon – Fri

www.hillaryoutdoors.co.nz

Articles

We're always on the lookout for interesting and informative articles for the newsletter. Please submit to Kathy, HiTAC editor - hitac.tac@outlook.com

Club Trips

Sat 24th May (Reserve day 25th May)

Circular route to the Pouakai Tarns

Mangorei Road end to Pouakai Tarns via Mangorei Falls and the historical plane wreck.

This is an rugged bush track involving steep "upper tracks", muddy and slippery conditions.

Return via Mangorei Road track.

This walk is weather dependant and the decision of the day will be made closer to the time taking into account the forecast conditions.

To register, please email myself at committee4.tac@outlook.com

Happy tramping,

Rachel - Trips coordinator

Mobile: (027) 865-5916

Social Events

80s Night

Saturday 3rd May 2025

Celebrating the 1980s with a TAC members only pot luck dinner at Tahurangi Lodge.
Get creative with your 80s outfit!

What to bring:
- Pot luck dinner contribution
- Nibbles and drinks
- 1980s costume

Time: starting with nibbles late afternoon
Organisers: Gail Geange (021 733 281) and Sheryl Hamilton (027 243 1718)

Give us a call if you have any queries or need more information.

P.S. please pass this on to other TAC members who may be interested.

Club Nights

Club Nights are held on the first Thursday of each month, usually at 7:30pm at Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street, unless otherwise advertised.

No BYO alcohol, as this is a licensed premises.

Date: Thursday 1st May 2025

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club

Come see and hear the highlights of an action packed 10 day the trip including the training build up and personal learnings from a fresh 2025 trip to Fiordland National Park

– Big scale Rock and Alpine Climbing right here in New Zealand from local experienced but anything but expert and/or elite Rock Climbing Alpinists Conrad Murray, Lindsay Stones and Tess Pope.



FMC

Printed FMC Quarterly Bulletins & Membership Cards

Available on club nights or by contacting Club President to arrange pickup.

Trip & Course Reports

Kawakawa Bay

Kawakawa Bay Taranaki Anniversary 2025

Eight excited climbers of varying levels of experience registered and turned up to the up and coming Taranaki Alpine Club tradition. Even though this is a self led trip it is a great opportunity to climb with new faces and share some top tips from those both more experienced and differently experienced from yourself and 2025 was no exception.

Most people arrived varying times on Saturday due to those annoying but likely necessary Friday work commitments, However Lindsay, Conrad and Martin led an advance party after negotiations to get out of or work completely or work remotely from the road on Friday. Two of the team took up the crucial task of loading everyone's gear loaded on the boat while one raced ahead to help unload at the other end as Suzanne(Fish Her Charters) requires a minimum of one on the boat and 1-2 to hold the boat off the beach in case there is big waves. Yes Lakes get big waves, who knew. Many of us took the option to bike ride the 10km Kawakawa bay, with some selecting to walk and run with the compulsory idyllic stop to take in the view of the bay before the final descent back to lake level. One change was the descent was absent of the memorable technical features eg. Larger Rocks and shallow ruts making it graded at the low end of grade 3 in contrast to the high grade 3 end previously estimated at, but numbers don't summarise the exhilaration and challenge no matter your chosen method of human powered travel. One top tip is the switchbacks(corners) on both sides are sharp with modest warning and the two way travel keeps up the spice and quick communication with how many in your group still following, so care is required warming you up for the climbing to come.

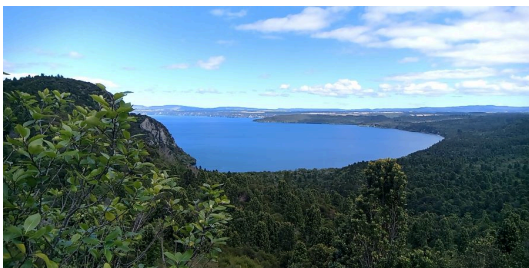
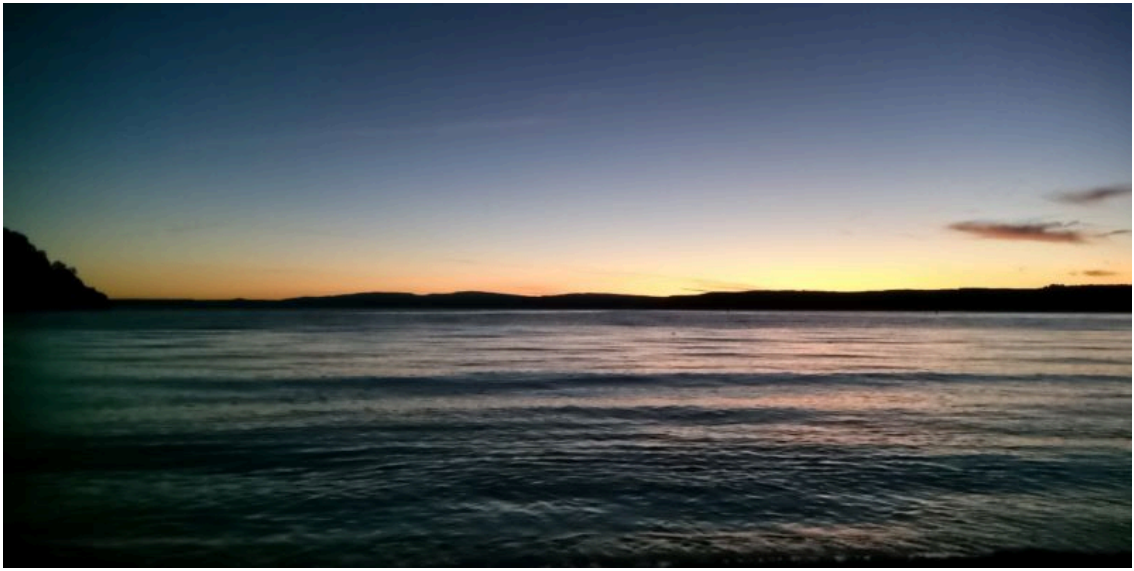
After grabbing arguably the larger best camp spot, although in hindsight a little chill compared with the beach front sunnier spots. The trio headed out for an evening climb at the lower bluff, the best area for refreshing and groups of multiple experience levels but closely rivalled by secret garden area, which was also taken advantage of over the weekend.

The Goal for most was to climb some classic routes but some had hidden agendas to hangdog(rest on the rope between every few moves) and maybe even send some long standing personal projects. Eg. The deceptively steep classics Jugzilla (17) and Aliens(21).

Another simultaneous agenda for many in the group was multi pitch climbing, (belaying up the wall with setting up belay stations on mostly ledges or hanging and routes up to 120m)likely with the idea that it may contribute to the skills required to climb the great rock on Taranaki maunga, so there was some gentle and not so gentle indoctrinations into rope stacking, left handed only and alternating hang belaying.

If people want to join this trip or similar ones in future there is multiple ways to get the minimum experience required which we usually try to specify in the HiTAC when we advertise the trip, one way to get the minimum experience is to register early for rock and ropes with the club which ran the same weekend this year, so we may need a spring Kawakawa bay trip for those who missed this one. Another more slower paced way is to get down the local rope climbing wall @ the Y, it won't be as fast indoctrination as rock and ropes but you can practice all the skills eg. Tie in with a retied figure eight, belaying(holding the rope)with a friction device and abseiling over at least 5-6 sessions.

Big thanks to the whole team for making the trip what it was. Including Lindsay, Glenys and the TAC committee for organising.
Conrad Murray



Rock & Rope weekend

Rock and Ropes was a very interesting course where we were able to learn how to stay safe with ropes, particularly with abseiling. The guides had a lot of interesting insights and we were able to learn a lot from them. I would consider the course extremely valuable, and recommend it to anyone wanting to be involved on the mountain.

Thanks,
Aster

The course was exactly what I wanted to do. Steve, Lucas and (I forgot one more guy's name, sorry) made a safe and friendly environment.

That would be fantastic if there would be some TAC buddy rope days.

Thanks anyway

Would you please correct my English?

Thanks Yumi



Club Information

TAHURANGI LODGE

TAC's lodge sleeps 24, has electric heating and cooking, cutlery, pots and pans, etc. Just like home. Members can request an eKey by completing the application available from the Club's website.

Overnight fee is \$55 for non-members. Members free. Anyone who stays at Taurangi Lodge must write in the overnight book upstairs by the fridge;

1. Their surname and initials.
2. Say TAC or non-member.

Bookings by non-members or members taking a group of 5+ people should be made with the Lodge Booking Officer, or by booking online via the Club's website. The lodge subcommittee looks after all maintenance and can be contacted for help, feedback or suggestions. If you have trouble accessing the Lodge (e.g. due to eKey failure), phone either the Club President, or the Lodge Booking Officer. Contact info on Web page: <http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz/pages/contacts.html>

CURRENT SUBSCRIPTIONS

FAMILY \$80, INDIVIDUAL \$60, STUDENT (under 18) \$50.

Lodge Access Fob Bond \$25.00 (a one-off payment).

Lodge Access Fob \$20.00 annually.

Your membership will be forfeited if subs are still unpaid by the 1st of June. You will be removed from the database and your fob will be deactivated.

MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

Hello Club is our membership system. See the link below to login & update your details <https://taranaki-alpine-club.helloclub.com/register>

Through Hello Club, you are able to:

- Renew and pay for your membership or any other outstanding fees
- View past transactions and download invoices and receipts
- Update your email address and other personal details.

You will have received an email with instructions on how to setup your account for Hello Club.

For any questions or comments, please contact Sheryl: president.tac@outlook.com

GEAR HIRE

- Winter and summer equipment is available for hire by TAC Club Members. This includes: Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), ice axes, ice hammers, helmets, harnesses, quick draws, carabiners, etc.
- Each item costs \$5/day or a maximum of \$10/day for 2 or more items per person.
- To only pay for the days gear was used, return items promptly. Late returns will be charged for the entire hire period.
- Contact the Equipment Officer AT LEAST 2 days in advance to ensure availability:
committee2.tac@outlook.com / 027 266 2330

EVENTS PROGRAMME

Club nights, trips, instruction and social events are important functions of the Club's activities – they need both support from participants as well as volunteers to lead them. If you have suggestions for club nights, contact the Trips Co-Ordinator. If you would like to volunteer to lead a trip, contact the Trips Co-Ordinator: committee4.tac@outlook.com

HiTAC— Newsletter

Sent monthly by email and also available on the Club's website at www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

Any trip reports, events, or gear for sale can be sent to the Editor at hitac.tac@outlook.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please login to your Hello Club account to make any updates. If you are unable to log in, please contact president.tac@outlook.com

Contacting the Club

Committee:

Janica Amore - committee1.tac@outlook.com

Katyana Kowalchuk-Horn - committee2.tac@outlook.com

Andrea Jupp - committee3.tac@outlook.com

Rachel Alford - committee4.tac@outlook.com

Charlie Andrews - committee5.tac@outlook.com

or email Clarissa Benton - secretary.tac@outlook.com

Lodge Bookings:

Gail Geange - 021 733 281

Stephen Miller - 027 244 2753

bookings.tac@outlook.com

Lodge Maintenance Officer:

Charlie Andrews - committee5.tac@outlook.com

HiTAC Editor:

Kathy Waterfield - hitac.tac@outlook.com

Submissions welcome from any club member. Please contact Kathy for submission info and deadlines.

Club Links

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[Club Homepage](#)

[Lodge & Bookings](#)

[Club Contacts](#)

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